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EVENING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 1949.

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EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER, 1949.

October Employment a Record

The number of wage and salary earners in employment (excluding rural industry and females in private domestic service) increased by 13,500 during October, 1949 to the record level of 2,469,000 (males 1,797,600 and females 671,400). Private employment rose by 11,200 to 1,833,600, while governmental (Commonwealth, State, Local, etc.) rose by 2,300 to 635,400. Of the latter 2,600 were New Australians employed by Commonwealth service departments pending absorption in private employment. Private employment is now 500 higher than at the end of May, prior to the coal dispute.

Increases in all States

The total numbers in employment increased in all States. In Queensland, however, the number of males employed has remained unaltered since September, while the number of females employed has similarly remained unaltered in Tasmania.

Changes in Industrial Groups

The increase in employment during October was mainly in manufacturing (7,700), transport and communication (2,200), trade and commerce (1,600). Employment on Construction work (including Government Building) fell by 200, but was more than offset by a rise of 300 in the number employed on private building.

Rise in Factory Employment

Of the increase of 7,700 in factory employment 5,000 were males and 2,700 females. The rise was shared by all classes of factories except those manufacturing textiles and knitted goods where there was a drop of 55 in the number employed. The greatest increase occurred in the manufacture of metals, machines, vehicles, etc. where the number employed rose by 3,730 to 320,142. The number employed in food, drink and tobacco manufacture rose by 1,149, and employees in clothing manufacture increased by 722.

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